

Message Text

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SUBJECT: SOVIET-NORWEGIAN BILATERAL FISHERY RELATIONS

REF: A.) A-121, JUNE 24, 1975; B-) OSLO 4983,
NOVEMBER 10, 1975

1. THE NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE (NMFS), NOAA,
COMMERCE, WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE IT IF THE EMBASSY WOULD
QUERY APPROPRIATE NORWEGIAN FISHERY OFFICIALS ON THE RE-
SULTS OF THEIR BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE SOVIET
UNION. THESE NEGOTIATIONS RESULTED IN THE CONCLUSION OF A
FISHERIES COOPERATION AGREEMENT ON APRIL 11, 1975.
SUBSEQUENTLY, THE FIRST SESSION OF THE USSR-NORWAY FISH-
ERIES COOPERATION COMMITTEE TOOK PLACE IN MOSCOW JANUARY
29-30, 1976.

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2. WHATEVER DETAILS THE POST CAN PROVIDE ON THIS SUBJECT WOULD BE OF GREAT INTEREST TO NMFS. WE ARE PARTICULARLY EAGER TO FIND OUT IF THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT WAS ABLE TO EXERT SOME SPECIAL INFLUENCE ON THE SOVIETS BY MAKING USE OF THE 200-MILE EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE (EEZ) ISSUE. (NORWAY PRESENTLY CLAIMS A 12-MILE TERRITORIAL SEA, BUT HAS BEEN SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING THE EXTENSION TO A

200-MILE EEZ FOR SOME TIME.) A DISCUSSION OF OTHER MAJOR ISSUES INVOLVED IN THE RECENT NEGOTIATIONS IS ALSO OF GREAT INTEREST.

3. NMFS NOTED IN THE EMBASSY'S DAILY PUBLICATION "NORWEGIAN NEWS MEDIA" OF JANUARY 31, 1976 A SMALL ITEM FROM AFTENPOSTEN (P.8) CONCERNING THE FIRST MEETING OF THE NORWEGIAN-SOVIET FISHERIES COMMISSION. NMFS WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING THIS AND OTHER NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS ON THE SUBJECT OF NORWEGIAN-SOVIET FISHERY RELATIONS. (DUE TO OUR LIMITED LANGUAGE CAPABILITIES, BRIEF SUMMARIES BY POST WOULD BE HELPFUL.) IF USIS HAS PREPARED AN ANALYSIS OF THE NORWEGIAN-USSR RELATIONS, NMFS WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING A COPY.

4. AN AGREEMENT ON HERRING FISHING BETWEEN NORWAY, ICELAND AND THE USSR WAS CONCLUDED ON FEBRUARY 25, 1972. ACCORDING TO THE TERMS OF THIS AGREEMENT, NO "MATURE HERRING SPAWNING IN THE SPRING" ARE TO BE HARVESTED IN THE BARENTS SEA, NORWEGIAN SEA, AND WATERS IN THE VICINITY OF THE FAEROE ISLANDS, AS DESIGNATED BY THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR THE EXPLORATION OF THE SEA (ICES). HOWEVER, IN 1974 NORWEGIAN FISHERMEN REPORTED SIX SOVIET MEDIUM TRAWLERS CATCHING AND SALTING "LARGE HERRING" IN WATERS OFF THE LOFOTEN ISLANDS IN THE NORWEGIAN SEA. THE SOVIETS CLAIMED THEY WERE ONLY STUDYING THE HERRING FISHERY IN THAT AREA, BUT THE NORWEGIANS ALLEGED THAT THE AMOUNT OF HERRING TAKEN GREATLY EXCEEDED THAT WHICH WOULD BE NECESSARY FOR RESEARCH. THEY CHARGED THE SOVIETS WITH VIOLATION OF THE AGREEMENT. (AFTENPOSTEN; FEB. 19, 1974) A SECOND ALLEGED VIOLATION OCCURRED IN NOVEMBER, 1975 (REF. B).

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5. NMFS WOULD APPRECIATE NORWAY'S FISHERIES MINISTRY'S EVALUATION OF THE ABOVE-MENTIONED CONFLICT. IF THE SOVIETS WERE INDEED USING "FISHERY RESEARCH VESSELS" FOR COMMERCIAL FISHING, AN INTERESTING PRECEDENT WOULD BE SET FOR SOVIET FISHERY RESEARCH ACTIVITIES OFF FOREIGN SHORES, INCLUDING US COASTS. FYI ONLY. DURING RECENT U.S.-USSR BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS, THE SOVIETS ASKED FOR,

BUT DID NOT OBTAIN, THE RIGHT TO USE FISHERY RESEARCH
VESSELS IN AREAS CLOSED TO COMMERCIAL FISHING. END FYI.

6. PLEASE SEPARATE CLASSIFIED MATERIAL FROM UNCLASSIFIED.
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